

## **Small Group Discussion Questions Bamberg County**

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Early childhood collaboration with First Steps
- Local Headstart-Transition Agreement
- Pre-K Child Development – ½ Day
- Parent educators providing home visits
- Parent-Family Literacy
- Gifted and Talented
- K-3 Reading First School
- 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Campus B-SCRI
- Hired Curriculum Specialist
- ON going staff development in all schools
- Middle school-after school program
- Churches provide after school assistance to students
- Teen Life Center-Denmark
- Gentlemen's Club at Middle school
- AP Program at high school- College level courses taught at HS-English
- School to work program
- ROTC
- Partnered with Career Center
- Seeking to have special needs children included with programs at First Steps
- Low Country Health Start
- Library, Parenting Programs, Teen Life Center: reducing teen pregnancies
- Looking at HIV-Education and Prevention (DHEC)
- Re-enforcing Values
- Job Corps, Denmark Tech.,
- Local churches
- United Way

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Latch key children not involved in programs
- Poverty
- Parents working outside of community
- Lack of outside industry
  - Main industries-school system and hospital
- Lack of qualified and certified teachers
- Parent Involvement
- Daycare and after school programs that are affordable
- Transportation

- Quality-Affordable housing
- Aging population
- Lack of education
- The schools themselves

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Talk to and educate parents on need for involvement
- Be accountable
- Get everybody involved
  - Grass Root Involvement
- More collaboration and faith based communities
- Each school needs a more active parent-teacher organization
- Mentoring program
- Transparency
- Open line to political leaders
- Educate Parents

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Challenge older kids to their very best as they are the future
- Locate and seek out all agencies that can assist with education the community as a whole
- Continue to serve as an advocate for quality education in Bamberg County through the First Steps Program